

SENATE, No. 91

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to study recycling streams in NJ and challenges faced by local governments in running recycling programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Recycling Stream
2 Improvement Task Force.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. There is established the New Jersey Recycling Stream
8 Improvement Task Force for the purpose of studying, evaluating,
9 and making recommendations concerning the state of recycling
10 streams in New Jersey in light of changing market conditions,
11 challenges faced by local governments in running recycling
12 programs, and such other related issues as the task force determines
13 necessary.

14 b. The task force shall consist of nine members as follows:

15 (1) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the
16 commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

17 (2) six members, each of whom shall have experience or
18 expertise in the legal, technical, policy, or economic aspects of
19 recycling, to be appointed as follows: two appointed by the Senate
20 President, two appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly,
21 one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, and one
22 appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly;

23 (3) two members, each of whom shall have experience or
24 expertise in local government recycling programs, to be appointed
25 by the Governor.

26 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
27 30 days after the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the
28 membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as
29 the original appointments.

30 d. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no
31 later than 30 days following the appointment of its members. The
32 task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members and
33 may appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task
34 force.

35 e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
36 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
37 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the
38 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
39 force for its purposes.

40 f. The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide
41 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such
42 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.
43 The task force also shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
44 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
45 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
46 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

47 g. No later than one year after its organization, the task force shall
48 prepare and submit to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of

1 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a report
2 containing the findings and recommendations of the task force,
3 including any recommendations for legislative, regulatory, or local
4 government action to improve recycling in New Jersey and address
5 challenges faced by local governments in running recycling
6 programs.

7 h. The task force shall expire 30 days after issuance of the
8 report pursuant to subsection g. of this section.

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10 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

11 STATEMENT

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14 This bill would establish the New Jersey Recycling Stream
15 Improvement Task Force to study and make recommendations
16 concerning recycling streams in New Jersey and challenges faced
17 by local governments in running recycling programs.

18 Up until recently, much of New Jersey's and other states'
19 recyclable materials were sent to China, the world's largest market
20 for recyclables, for processing. However, China has largely
21 stopped accepting these materials from foreign recycling
22 businesses. This new policy has disrupted the recycling stream in
23 the State, lead to a spike in recycling costs for residents, and caused
24 paper, plastics, electronics, and other recyclable materials to pile up
25 in warehouses and in landfills. The State's recycling industry is not
26 currently equipped to handle the excess of recyclable materials, and
27 recycling facilities in New Jersey do not make enough profit from
28 the recyclable materials they collect, process, and transport. It is
29 necessary and appropriate for the State to convene a task force to
30 study recycling streams in the State and make recommendations to
31 improve recycling and address issues faced by local governments in
32 running recycling programs.

33 The task force would be composed of nine members, including:
34 (1) the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the
35 commissioner's designee; (2) six members, each of whom would
36 have experience of expertise in the legal technical, policy, or
37 economic aspects of recycling, to be appointed by legislative
38 leadership of both parties; and (3) two members, each of whom
39 would have experience in local government recycling programs, to
40 be appointed by the Governor. The Department of Environmental
41 protection would provide staffing and administrative support to the
42 task force. No later than one year after its organization, the task
43 force would be required to submit to the Governor and the
44 Legislature a report containing its findings and recommendations,
45 including any recommendations for legislative, regulatory, or local
46 government action to improve recycling in the State, and address
47 challenges faced by local governments in running recycling
48 programs.